

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279408
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR:DGOOTT:RLR

APPROVED BY EUR:DGOOTT

EUR/WE- MR. ROWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 279408

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY ON UPCOMING
PLANT ELECTIONS

THE AFL-CIO HAS ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO TRANSMIT THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY
TO AMBASSADOR STABLER. BEGIN TEXT:

"AS YOU KNOW THE UPCOMING PLANT ELECTIONS IN SPAIN ARE
CRUCIAL TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC
REPRESENTATIVE TRADE UNIONISM IN SPAIN. TO THAT END
WE ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT TWO GROUND RULES FOR THOSE
IMPORTANT ELECTIONS BE STRESSED BY YOU TO PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ AS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO AN UGT AND STV
VICTORY IN DECEMBER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CP WANTS
ELECTIONS BY OPEN BALLOT MAKING THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN
THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS APPEAR AS INDEPENDENTS ON THE
BALLOTS. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CP WANTS THE
FACTORY LEVEL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT POLLING PLACES AWAY
FROM THE FACTORIES GIVING THEIR POLITICAL OPERATIVES
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TIME TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME.

I FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THE DANGER OF THESE TWO EFFORTS
SHOULD BE MADE VERY CLEAR TO PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ SO THAT
HE IN TURN CAN TRANSMIT THESE CONCERNS TO THE APPROPRIATE
LEVEL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR FOR THE STRUCTURING OF THE
ELECTIONS. FIRST, THE ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD IN THE

FACTORIES NOT AT SEPARATE POLLING PLACES DISTANT FROM THE WORK PLACE. SECONDLY, THE BALLOTS SHOULD MATCH CANDIDATES WITH THEIR TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION. IN THIS FASHION AN OUTCOME FAVORABLE TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE DEMOCRATIC SECTOR IS MORE LIKELY.

I APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP STRESS THESE IMPORTANT PROCEDURES IN THESE ELECTIONS WHICH WILL PROBABLY CAST THE FUTURE DIMENSIONS OF THE SPANISH LABOR MOVEMENT.
SIGNED, GEORGE MEANY"

END TEXT. HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: OCON, ETRD, PINT, US, SP, WTO, (MEANY, GEORGE)
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